

Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EA-10 EUR-12 NEA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00
DODE-00 NSAE-00 NSCE-00 SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00
PM-05 H-01 INR-10 L-03 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 HA-05
ARA-10 OMB-01 TRSE-00 /110 W
-----060653 201228Z /10

O P 201008Z MAR 78
FM AMEMBASSY LUSAKA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7891
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK IMMEDIATE
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS PRIORITY
AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY GABORONE PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY LAGOS PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY LONDON PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY MAPUTO PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY OTTAWA PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY PARIS PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY PRETORIA PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L LUSAKA 0896

CAPE TOWN FOR EMBASSY

BRUSSELS AND DAR FOR AMBASSADOR YOUNG

MOGADISCIO FOR ASST. SECY. MOOSE

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PORG, SF, WA
SUBJ: NAMIBIA: SITUATION AT OPENING OF LUSAKA COUNCIL ON
NAMIBIA MEETING

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1. FOLLOWING INITIAL INFORMAL MEETINGS OF COUNCIL ON SUNDAY,
AUSTRALIAN MEMBERS CONTACTED CANADIANS TO PASS ON CONCERN
EXPRESSED BY SWAPO CONTACTS (CHIEFLY GURIRAB) WHO WONDERED
ABOUT THE STATE OF PLAY OF THE PROPOSALS AND ASKED WHY THERE
HAD BEEN NO FOLLOW-UP BY THE LUSAKA CONTACT GROUP WITH SAM
NUJOMA. SOME CONCERN WAS EXPRESSED THAT SILENCE MIGHT BE
MISINTERPRETED BY NUJOMA AND CAUSE HIM TO TAKE A HARDER LINE

IN HIS OPENING ADDRESS MONDAY. AS A RESULT, IT WAS DECIDED THAT A U.S. EMBASSY OFFICER WOULD CONTACT SWAPO TO INFORM IT THAT WE WERE STILL WORKING ON THE FINAL CLARIFYING POINTS OF THE PROPOSAL, AND EXPECTED TO HAVE THE TEXT SHORLY.

2. IN A SHORT MEETING WITH THE AUSTRALIANS MONDAY MORNING, THE FOLLOWING FURTHER POINTS WERE DISCUSSED. SAM NUJOMA RETURNED TO LUSAKA SUNDAY EVENING, HAVING HRNVELED TO MOZAMBIQUE TO MEET WITH THE JOINT ZAMBIA/MOZAMBIQUE COMMISSION. HE WILL ADDRESS THE CONFERENCE AT ITS OPENING MONDAY AFTERNOON AND IT IS WIDELY EXPECTED THAT WHAT HE HAS TO SAY WILL HAVE AN IMPORTANT EFFECT ON THE CONFIERENCE DELIBERATIONS.

3. PRESIDENT KAUNDA HAD BEEN EXPECTED ALSO TO ADDRESS THE OPENING, BUT HE HAS DECIDED AGAINST IT, DELEGATING THIS RESPONSIBILITY TO THE PRIME MINISTER. IN GENERAL, IT IS UNDERSTOOD THAT THE ZAMBIANS ARE CONCERNED ABOUT THE CONFERENCE AND HOW TO KEEP IT FROM GETTING OUT OF CONTROL. AS A RESULT, THEY ARE DISTANCING THEMSELVES SLIGHTLY FROM IT.

4. THE CONFERENCE WILL DEVOTE ITSELF TO THREE MAIN TASKS:
A. DRAWING UP OF A DECLARATION, WHICH WILL BE KNOWN AS A LUSAKA DECLARATION ON THE NAMIBIAN SITUATION.
B. THE DRAWING UP OF AN OUTLINE FOR THE SPECIAL SESSION OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY ON NAMIBIA TO BE HELD APRIL 24 TO MAY 3.
C. CHARTING A FUTURE COURSE FOR COUNCIL ACTION.
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5. RESULTS OF THE VARIOUS COUNCIL MISSIONS' MEETINGS WERE MIXED. IN GENERAL THEY FOUND THE FRONTLINE COUNTRIES CONSIDERABLY MORE RESTRAINED AND MODERATE THAN THEY HAD EXPECTED. THE SAME COULD BE SAID FOR THE NIGERIANS, WHO, THEY REPORTED, TALKED ABOUT THE COUNCIL FINDING A WAY TO WIND UP ITS EXISTENCE. GARBA, THEY REPORTED, EXPRESSED HIS CONCERN OVER THE LUSAKA MEETING AND SAID THE NIGERIANS WERE PREPARED TO ACT AS A BRIDGE BETWEEN THE FIVE AND THE NAMIBIA COUNCIL. ON THE OTHER HAND, HE ALSO SAID THAT NIGERIA WOULD SUPPORT WHATEVER RESOLUTION CAME OUT OF TTE COUNCIL MEETING HOWEVER RADICAL IT WAS. OTHER COUNTRIES GAVE MIXED SIGNALS TO THE COUNCIL GROUP THAT VISITED THEM. IN ANGOLA THE FOREIGN MINISTER INDICATED FULL SUPPORT FOR MILITARY ACTION WHILE THE PRIME MINISTER URGED THAT THE NEGOTIATIONS WITH THE FIVE BE ALLOWED TO SEE WHAT THEY COULD PRODUCE.

6. MODERATES, INCLUDING THE FRONTLINE, ARE SOMEWHAT CONCERNED OVER THE COURSE OF THE CONFERENCE, FEELING THAT IT WILL INEVITABLY BE PUSHED BY THE EASTERN REPRESENTATIVES TO A MORE RADICAL AND HARD-LINE CONCLUSION THAN THE FRONTLINE REPRESENTATIVES MAY DESIRE. IT IS NOT YET CLEAR WHO WILL PROVIDE THE LEADERSHIP IN THE CONFERENCE.

7. IT WAS AGREED THAT THE LUSAKA CONTACT GROUP WOULD MEET AGAIN TUESDAY MORNING AT 8:30 WITH THE AUSTRALIANS.

8. PRESS AND RADIO REPORTS OF ANDY YOUNG'S VISIT TO LUSAKA HAVE STIMULATED SOME COMMENT AMONG THE DELEGATES ABOUT WHETHER HE SHOULD BE INVITED TO ADDRESS THE CONFERENCE, INCLUDING SOME GRUMBLING AMONG EASTERN DELEGATES. IT IS GENERALLY CONSIDERED, HOWEVER, THAT IF HE DOES WANT TO DO SO AND THE MATTER IS PUT TO A VOTE IT COULD BE SUPPORTED. THE AUSTRALIANS FELT THAT A SPEECH THAT RECOGNIZED AND GAVE SOME IMPORTANCE TO THE ROLE OF THE COUNCIL OF NAMIBIA AND BRIEFED IT ON THE PROGRESS OF THE NEGOTIATIONS OF THE FIVE COULD HAVE A POSITIVE INFLUENCE. LOW
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